

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07211 271457Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07211

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW, BR
SUBJECT: GOB/FRG URANIUM ENRICHMENT COLLABORATION

REF: A. BRASILIA 3119; B. BRASILIA 3288; C. BONN
10938(75); D. MCCLELLAND/NOSENZO LETTER, 10/26/76;
E. BONN 05370; F. BONN 05690; G. BONN 5888

1. SUMMARY: OUR COMPARISONS OF CABLES FROM AMEMBASSIES BRASILIA AND BONN SUGGEST THAT DISCREPANCIES ARE MINOR--OR AT LEAST NO GREATER THAN TO BE EXPECTED IN ANY SENSITIVE TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS IN PRELIMINARY STAGE AND PREMATURELY EXPOSED IN GOVERNMENTAL PRONOUNCEMENTS AND MEDIA DEBATE. HOWEVER, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE GOB-FRG NUCLEAR DEAL IS A DELICATE TOPIC HERE. WHILE WE DO NOT RPT NOT SUSPECT DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION, WE DO APPRECIATE BRASILIA'S COMMENTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE OUR REPORTING WHENEVER POSSIBLE. FOLLOWING IS STATUS REPORT OF SITUATION AS WE UNDERSTAND IT AT PRESENT TIME. WE HAVE NOT YET EXPLOITED ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

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2. ACCORDING TO FRG OFFICIALS, GOB/FRG URANIUM ENRICHMENT COLLABORATION INVOLVES THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES:

A. NUCLEI: NUCLEBRAS 75 PERCENT: STEAG - 15
PERCENT, INTERATOM - 10 PERCENT.

THIS IS THE JOINT COMPANY THAT WILL BUILD
THE JET NOZZLE "DEMONSTRATION" PLANT WITH
A CAPACITY OF 170 - 260 TONNE SWU/YEAR
(SEE REF F).

B. NUSTEP: NUCLEBRAS - 50 PERCENT, STEAG -
50 PERCENT (ACCORDING TO REF A). GERMAN
OFFICIALS WERE NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO
CONFIRM THESE OWNERSHIP PERCENTAGES AND
ONESOURCE BELIEVED INTERATOM WAS ALSO A
PARTICIPANT. WE WILL FOLLOW UP.

THIS IS THE PATENT HOLDING COMPANY (SEE
REFS C AND D).

C. FRG OFFICIALS WERE NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF
NUSTEG FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.
WE WILL FOLLOW UP.

D. IN VIEW OF REF B, WHICH ASSOCIATES NUSTEP
WITH TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, WE WONDER
WHETHER NUSTEP AND NUSTEG COULD BE IDENTI-
CAL (COMPARE ALSO REF A).

3. FRG OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZE ANY TALK OF "LARGE
SCALE" PLANT AS "PREMATURE" AND BEYOND BRAZIL'S NEEDS.

4. THERE WILL BE NO PILOT PLANT, FIRST ASSEMBLED IN
FRG. THESE PLANS, REPORTED IN REF C, HAVE CHANGED.
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SENSITIVE COMPONENTS WILL BE FABRICATED IN FRG, THEN
SHIPPED TO BRAZIL FOR ASSEMBLY, BEGINNING ABOUT 1979
(SEE REF E). AN EXPORT LICENSE WILL BE REQUIRED.
THESE WILL BE FULL SIZE STAGES AS REQUIRED FOR 170-
260 TONNE SWU/YEAR "DEMONSTRATION" PLANT.

5. THE ALLEGED EASY "SAFEGUARDABILITY" OF THE JET
NOZZLE PLANT DEPENDS UPON SERIES CONNECTION OF FULL-
SCALE STAGES. (SEE BONN A-205, MAY 16, 1975). BATCH
PROCESSING TO EXCEED DESIGN ENRICHMENT WOULD REQUIRE
AUXILIARY STORAGE--WITH POSSIBLE CRITICALITY PROBLEMS
AS MENTIONED REF A. GERMANS CLAIM THAT EVEN
A NOMINAL INSPECTION SYSTEM COULD PREVENT THIS.

STOESSEL

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